

Marlboro County School District

P.O. Box 947

Bennettsville, SC 29512

843-454-1999

RE: CC Docket No. 02-6 and GN Docket No. 09-51

In response to the proposed changes outlined in the above referenced FCC NPRM, our District would like to comment on how the proposed rule changes would adversely affect MCSD. The proposed changes that would have the most dramatic influence on our District are changes to *unbundled warranties* and *web hosting*. While the District understands the FCC's desire to be able to allocate more funds across a larger range of applicants, removing these eligible categories of service would be detrimental to our District. It is our belief that our District is not the only applicant in this position.

Web hosting is an integral tool for the District in that it helps with both the teaching of students and community interaction with the District. Web hosting is one of the many tools that the District relies on to educate students. Our website helps transfer learning information and it also provides a safe platform for students to become familiar with the digital world. Our District's website is a safe place for students of all ages to go to learn about, and experience, the Internet. In addition to the educational benefits, our website is also the primary means of communicating with the community as a whole. We live in a digital age and rely heavily upon our website to stay connected with our students and our community. The potential loss of web hosting as an eligible E-Rate service would have a tremendous negative impact on our community and our students. Without E-Rate support, we would not be able to provide this service.

Unbundled warranties and network maintenance are vital to the continued normal functioning of our network. Without these services our network would not function in a manner similar to that which is found in the normal marketplace. MCSD consists of 9 schools that support almost 5000 students. Being a small rural county, we have a very small tax base. Because of this, staffing is limited. Presently our District has only 1 network engineer on staff to maintain a network of 10 routers, approximately 50 servers, numerous switches, access points and other networked equipment as well as software. The unbundled warranties allow equipment to be fixed or replaced in a timely manner in order to keep the network functioning without prolonged interruption. We greatly depend on E-Rate support to assist us in providing a dependable network for the education of our students.

It is our hope that the FCC does not make any changes to the FY2011-2012 ESL regarding web hosting or unbundled warranties. These services are just part of the whole E-Rate program that allows us to educate our students in a way that prepares them adequately for the future. It is imperative that all students, not just ours, are technology proficient when they graduate and E-Rate helps us achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AS' followed by a large, stylized flourish.

Andy Schwartz